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Report of the Human Rights Council

Letter dated 30 November 2016 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Poland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to convey the attached letter regarding the resolution on the report of the Human Rights Council (see annex).

I would be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be issued as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 63.

(*Signed*) Pawel **Radomski**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex to the letter dated 30 November 2016 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Poland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I would like to draw your attention to draft resolution A/C.3/71/L.46 on the report of the Human Rights Council, which was adopted by the Third Committee on 21 November 2016.

Poland has been a staunch supporter of the Human Rights Council since its establishment. After a decade of activities, the Council has clearly proved its crucial role as the United Nations body exclusively devoted to the promotion and protection of human rights. Apart from many important areas of the Council's mandated responsibilities, one of its major tasks is to bring a wide array of pressing issues in the field of human rights to the attention of the international community.

Poland was seriously concerned about the deferral of Human Rights Council resolution 24/24, as decided by the General Assembly in its resolution on the report of the Human Rights Council in 2013. We express even stronger regret that new steps in this respect were initiated once again in 2016. In our opinion, this practice is harmful to the human rights protection system as well as to the position of the Human Rights Council.

At the same time, with regard to the independent expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, Poland would like to stress the fact that it did not support the establishment of this mandate, as our delegation in Geneva did not join the list of co-sponsors of Human Rights Council resolution 32/2.

It is clear that Poland rejects any attempts to discriminate against any person on any grounds, including sexual orientation. It is also clear that Poland combats staunchly any attempts to use violence against LGBT persons. Moreover, we believe that the creation of the mandate of an independent expert, a decision which was not taken by consensus, will not serve the cause of fighting discrimination, but will rather lead to the further polarization of positions within the Human Rights Council. We believe that a mandate on a topic which many delegations view as highly sensitive should have been approached in a manner conducive to the elaboration of a consensual outcome, which was unfortunately not the case.

I would be grateful if the present letter could be included in the records of the seventy-first session of the General Assembly.

(*Signed*) Boguslaw **Winid**